(e) the action contemplated by Government on such representations and its reaction to root out corruption from judiciary?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (e) Allegations of corruption in the higher judiciary have come to the notice of the Government from time to time. As for the subordinate judiciary, the administrative control over its members vests with the concerned High Courts and the State Governments as per the provisions of Article 235 of the Constitution of India.

The Government is in the process of preparing a road map for judicial reforms in the country Consultations in this regard have already begun. Accountability in the judiciary is also one of the components of the judicial reforms. A decision in the matter will be taken on completion of the process of consultation.

Amendments in MMDR and MCR

†1715. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to bring amendments in the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation), Act (MMDR) and Mining Concession Rules (MCR), for speedier and timely development of mineral resources available in States;

(b) if so, in which rules and sections;

(c) whether Government proposes to delegate all rights related to minerals mentioned in parts 'A' and 'C' of the MMDR Act to the States; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) The Government is considering a proposal to bring the legislative framework of the mineral and mines sector in consonance with the National Mineral Policy, 2008. Since the matter is at an interim stage, it is not possible at present to specify the nature and extent of changes in the legislative framework.

Illegal mining

1716. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of illegal mining detected during the last three years and the action taken against the culprits;

(b) whether the minerals and areas prone to illegal mining have been identified; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to stop illegal mining?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) The number of cases of illegal mining detected in the last three years by State Governments is given below:-

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
38013	40575	41793

No separate exercise has been undertaken to identify minerals or the areas prone to illegal mining as instances of illegal mining differ in each State. However, the Central Government has taken pro-active steps to prevent illegal mining and has devised a three-pronged action strategy, which includes ensuring that the State. Government constitute Task Force/Flying Squads at both State and District level, asking the State Governments to frame rules for prevention of illegal mining and monitoring the instances of illegal mining through quarterly returns from the State Governments.

Iran-ore mines

1717. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of iron-ore mines in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number and the details of mines captive to steel plants, mines (merchant mining) in public sector and mines (merchant mining) in private sector; and

(c) the details under the above categories, as to who have set up beneficiation plans to upgrade iron-ore fines?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) As per available information the details of State-wise reporting mines of iron ore in 2008-09 is given below:

State	Number of Mines (Provisional)				
	Captive		Non-captive		
	Private Sector	Public Sector	Private Sector	Public Sector	State-wise Total
Andhra Pradesh	-	-	23	-	23
Chhattisgarh	1	5	1	3	10
Goa	-	-	72	-	72
Jharkhand	2	5	13	-	20
Karnataka	-	-	87	5	92
Madhya Pradesh	-	-	7	-	7
Maharashtra	1	-	9	1	11
Orissa	4	4	64	11	83
Rajasthan	-	-	1	-	1
		TOTAL :			319

(Source: IBM)